



## **MDOC AND MSP COLLABORATE TO STOP SEX OFFENDERS**



The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and the Michigan State Police (MSP) are sharing information and resources to keep communities safe from sex offenders. The collaborative approach has resulted in the successful apprehension of several dangerous sexual offenders.

For many years MDOC, MSP, and local agencies all supervised sex offenders, sometimes overlapping resources or spending time on the same investigations. With the advent of electronic file and information sharing technologies and real-time violation reporting, MDOC and MSP are able to share information, including tips and community reports, with the click of a button. Because of this advancement, they now allocate resources differently, with very little duplication of effort.

MSP receives tips on sex offenders through the Michigan Public Sex Offender Registry (MIPSOR). They validate those tips, research whether the offender is on current state or local supervision and then pass it along to the appropriate authority. MDOC's tips come to the office of Alice Jones, Lead Agent in the MDOC's Sex Offender Supervision Unit. She determines who the supervising field agent is and sends them the information. Once received, the supervising agent begins an investigation into the actions of the sex offender. If it is determined that a criminal act or violation of parole or probation has occurred, the agent acts to arrest the offender, often in coordination with local or state law enforcement agencies.

Two recent cases demonstrate the success of this collaboration. In July, the Kent County Probation Office received a tip from MSP on an offender who was violating the 1000 foot rule. The tip alleged that the sex offender was parking near a local park's splash pad, watching children play in the water. Probation Officers Badic and Barnes observed the offender sitting in his car about 100 feet from a splash pad, watching children in swim suits and diapers play in the water. With the help of Wyoming Police, the offender was arrested and sentenced to 3-15 years in prison.

In an August incident, MSP shared a tip that children were visiting the home of a registered sex offender who lived in a condominium association with a community pond. Neighbors said the offender was enticing children, who were playing near the pond, into his home. He was arrested by Parole Officer Nagy for violation of his parole.

These examples illustrate the importance of agencies working together to keep Michigan's citizens safe.

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## MDOC PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER USES STRENGTH AS POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON OTHERS

Daniel Foor, a twenty year Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) veteran and current Monroe County Parole/Probation Officer, is a strong guy - really strong. He can bench press 600 lbs. He ranks in the top five world-wide in the bench press. He can break stacks of cinder blocks with his elbows. He rips phone books and license plates in half. He lifts tree trunks over his head. He has held the title of Mr. Michigan and has qualified in the heavyweight division as a body-building finalist at the national level.



But those feats of strength mean nothing if they can't help influence others. So Dan joined the "Next Generation Power Force." While the program was initially conceived as a "strength and feats ministry," it has developed into a multi-faceted organization that reaches out to public and private school children across the country, spreading a powerful positive message of personal strength and inspiration. Whether it's rolling a frying pan into the shape of a burrito or twisting steel rods held in their teeth, this program keeps children totally engrossed in a message of success, perseverance, and achievement. Ninety-percent of school administrators say that the free-of-charge school assembly is the best one they have ever had.



While there are many appealing aspects to the power force, Dan thinks that influencing children to do their best in school, make positive choices, and stay away from peer pressure is one of the best things he can do to help make society better. School assemblies, like the ones in which Dan regularly participates, have impacted over 6 million children in over 40 countries over the past 20 years. Being a part of something with so much impact is a great thing for Dan, who with a titanium hip, is the only legally disabled power force team member. He encourages everyone to follow their dreams and make a positive difference with the attributes they are blessed with.

## MOVES AND PROMOTIONS CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Three new wardens have been appointed to serve at facilities throughout the state.

- Warden Gregory McQuiggin transferred from Baraga to the Chippewa/Straits correctional facilities.
- Warden Gary J. Capello started August 4, 2008 at Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility/Camp Kitwen. He was formerly the administrative officer at Baraga.
- Warden David Bergh will transfer August 25, 2008 from Alger Maximum Correctional Facility/Camp Cusino to Cooper Street Correctional Facility/Special Alternative Incarceration.

Please take a moment to welcome the wardens and share your thoughts about facility operations with them as they adjust to their new surroundings.





## MDOC CAN HELP MENTOR MICHIGAN

What is mentoring? It's a power-free relationship based on trust and respect between two people, one who generally has greater wisdom and life experiences, with the goal of developing competence and character in the mentee.

Why mentor? Mentoring provides a positive influence on children and young adults who need ethical and motivating influence to help them create and meet life goals, while stimulating personal and professional growth. Kids who are mentored are less likely to use illegal drugs, engage in underage drinking, and become involved in criminal behavior. They are more likely to have higher grades, stay in school, and contribute to community programs that enhance our social well-being.

With nearly 17,000 employees, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is an agency full of potential mentors. Many employees have been mentors, while others have been the mentee, and are now ready to become mentors. The MDOC is a people business, and mentoring is about getting the best out of people and preparing them for success in their personal and professional lives.

Mentoring may seem at first to be pretty intimidating. Guiding someone through life, giving them input so they can make the right choices that lead toward their goals can be both thrilling and frightening. It's also worthwhile. Some traits of a mentor may help you decide if you have what it takes to be a good mentor:

- Good, active listener
- Encourages and demonstrates confidence in mentee

- Shows a genuine interest in others
- Exhibits patience and kindness
- Ability to accept different points of view
- Recognizes mentee as an individual
- Interested in sharing knowledge and experience, including successes and failures
- Willing to admit they don't know everything
- Creates a positive environment
- Has a sense of humor
- Willing to motivate mentee to learn and grow
- Loyal, honest, trustworthy

Mentor Michigan, led by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and First Gentleman Dan Mulhern, is working to ensure that all of our youth have ongoing relationships with stable, caring individuals.

Together with mentoring programs throughout the state, Mentor Michigan is working to enhance mentoring opportunities for children and young adults. The program recruits mentors, develops partners and champions, advocates for mentoring issues and standards, provides resources and training, and recognizes the accomplishments of mentors and their supporting organizations.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, Michigan has just the program for you. A new web site, [www.mentormichigan.org](http://www.mentormichigan.org), offers a "Mentoring Directory" that will help you find mentoring programs throughout Michigan. Or you can contact the Mentor Michigan Program Coordinator Amber Reiss at [reissa@michigan.gov](mailto:reissa@michigan.gov).





## GREY DRAGONS RIDE TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On June 7, 2008, riders from across the state of Michigan converged in Mount Pleasant for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Ride Against Domestic Violence." The purpose of this event was to show support for victims of domestic violence and the devastation it brings to communities. The event was organized in the name of Mary Lynn Babb, who was shot and killed by her estranged husband outside her workplace in Mount Pleasant.

With a motorcycle escort from the Isabella County Sheriff Department, Grey Dragons U.P. Chapter President Greg Priestly (NCF) and Vice President Keith Rolph (KTF) led the procession of motorcycles out of Mount Pleasant and into the surrounding panoramic countryside for a spectacular ride. Riders were made up of civilian supporters, Mary's friends and family, as well as members of the U.P., Ionia, St. Louis, and Clare Chapters of the Grey Dragons.

This year riders and walkers participated in events at two separate locations to show support for this cause and to honor the memory of Mary Lynn. A raffle and silent auction after the ride included autographed memorabilia from the Detroit Lions and Red Wings.

Working with the Saginaw Master Gardeners, Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, and other environmental groups, prisoners in SRF's horticulture program took seeds harvested from 60 native plant species within the refuge and nurtured them into 25,000 seedling plugs. A grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network paid for the greenhouse space and supplies to grow the seeds.



On May 31, 2008, these ready-to-plant plugs were transplanted into 15 acres of recouped farmland that will become wetland prairie within the refuge, adding to the over 118 acres that have been rehabilitated. Over 1,100 acres of farmland will become new prairie over the next couple years.

The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge lies in the Saginaw Bay watershed where four rivers; the Flint, Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, and Cass, converge. It is home to over 100 species of songbirds, a migratory stop for thousands of waterfowl annually, and home to whitetail deer, turkey, pheasants, and other critters.

The cooperative efforts of all involved parties are making an impact on the environmental health of the watershed. Without these initiatives, rehabilitating this valuable natural habitat would not be possible.

## PRISONERS GROW NATIVE PLANTS FOR WATERSHED PRAIRIE

Prisoners from Saginaw Correctional Facility (SRF) are helping restore what is now farmland into a native prairie in the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge south of Saginaw.



## MCLEMORE RECRUIT CLASS GRADUATES

The Barry McLemore Class, comprised of 167 new officers assigned to facilities throughout the state, graduated on August 8, 2008. The class namesake, retired Deputy Director Barry McLemore gave a motivating keynote address to the new officers, challenging them to do their best, learn as much as they can, and embrace the ethical standards necessary to become well-rounded professional corrections officers.

See *ACADEMY*, page 5




**ACADEMY, from page 4**

During the ceremonies, Demetrius Shepherd of the Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility received the Josephine B. McCallum Award as the most outstanding new officer in the class. Thomas Schultz of the Ryan Correctional Facility received the Jack Budd Award for putting forth the greatest effort to achieve success in the academy.



*Above from left: Director Patricia Caruso, McCallum award winner Demetrius Shepherd, and class namesake - retired Deputy Director Barry McLemore.*

*Below: Officers prepare to be seated prior to the graduation ceremony.*



## NEW OUTER DISTRICT PAROLE OFFICES USED FOR TARGET PRACTICE

The new Detroit Outer District Parole offices were a silent victim to a senseless criminal act over the weekend of August 16-17. Sometime during that period, criminals fired several rifle rounds through the building. Fortunately, the it

was not occupied at the time of the incident. Staff arriving to work on Monday morning noticed bullet holes in the drywall and alerted Detroit Police. A criminal investigation is ongoing. This incident comes at a time when staff were just settling into the new building. It is also a sad reminder of the dangers associated with our profession and the risks criminals are willing to take to jeopardize the safety of those obligated to help them succeed.

## PINE RIVER CHAPLAIN TO SWIM MACKINAW STRAITS

Many people are afraid to drive across the Mackinaw Bridge, but imagine swimming across the Straits of Mackinaw. That's exactly what Ed Holsworth, Chaplain at the Pine River Correctional Facility, plans on doing Labor Day weekend in an effort to raise money to purchase specialized hearing aids for two of his grandsons born with a congenital inner ear condition. With his wife Bonnie, who works in Central Office Finance division will be cheering him on, Ed will swim to raise money for specialized hearing aids from Germany that allow the boys to hear. Each pair of hearing aids cost approximately \$6,000 with very little of the expense being covered by any insurance.



The swim across the Mackinaw Straits is tentatively scheduled between August 30 – September 2, depending on which day weather conditions are most favorable.

The St. Johns Lions Club will be the primary sponsor for the chaplain's swim and will accept donations from anyone interested in assisting with this worthy cause. To make a donation, send funds earmarked:

"Trust Fund-H"  
St. Johns Lions Club  
P.O. Box 511  
St. Johns MI, 48879





## QUITTER'S CORNER: INTERVIEW WITH A FORMER TOBACCO USER

In the second in a series of **F.Y.I.** interviews with former tobacco users who kicked the habit, Rosanne Leland, MDOC's Life Services Coordinator, interviewed Paula Ludwick. Paula is the deputy warden's secretary at Florence Crane Correctional Facility.

**F.Y.I.:** *When did you go tobacco free?*

**Paula:** "I quit smoking February 1, 2008."

**F.Y.I.:** *Why did you go tobacco free?*

**Paula:** "I stopped smoking because the Department was going tobacco free and it was just the right time to stop."

**F.Y.I.:** *How long did you use tobacco products?*

**Paula:** "I smoked for thirty-three years! It was like a friend that was always there. Smoking was part of my identity. I was twenty when I started; it was in fashion back in the 1980s. Back then I smoked three packs a day. I tried quitting several times and felt like a failure each time. It was good for me what the Department has done with the Tobacco Cessation Initiative."

**F.Y.I.:** *What situations were most difficult for you to stop smoking?*

**Paula:** "First thing in the morning, with a cup of coffee, after meals, and anytime I got stressed at work. The cravings were pretty bad in the beginning, now they are less and less. Chewing gum sure helps! I had mood swings the first couple of months but it does get easier over time. I took a lot of warm baths, watched lots of movies, and kept myself very busy. This helped a lot! I used smoking to reward myself, but not any longer."

**F.Y.I.:** *What/who helped you quit?*

**Paula:** "I helped myself quit because I am a very determined person. This time I am very committed."

See *QUIT*, page 7

## FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Michelle Brittain is a parole agent who works in the Intensive Detention Re-entry program in Ingham County. She collaborates with Ingham County Jail staff to stabilize about 190 parolees in preparation for a supervised return into the community. She also participates in triathlons. Like many of us, Michelle wanted a challenging way to maintain personal fitness. She found that the combination of biking, running, and swimming would be just the right mix to keep her motivated and interested. She also has the support of her family, which has helped make a big difference.

Michelle began training in January 2008 as a way to increase her fitness and physical health. She stresses that she is NOT a runner, but knew this challenge would help her become what she wanted to be.

Through many tough (and chilly) workouts that included biking, running, and swimming, she prepared herself for a June 2008 triathlon. She got new running shoes, learned how to run, re-trained herself in swimming and borrowed a road bike to train on.

Finally, on June 1, 2008, Michelle competed in her first triathlon. She completed the course in 1 hour 15 minutes, about five minutes below her goal for time and she placed 15th overall in her age group.

Exercise is addictive and Michelle is definitely in it for the long haul. She continued training throughout the summer and competed in her second triathlon on August 10, 2008. She placed third in her division.

Michelle chose to become more fit and you can too! Finding the right motivation tool will keep you on the road to physical fitness.



**QUIT, from page 6**

Sure I gained weight, but I did not worry about it this time. My kids and fiancé put up with my crankiness and still loved me and were supportive of my quitting. I took a prescription smoking cessation product but stopped after 10 weeks due to the side effects."

**F.Y.I.:** *What has your life been like since you stopped using tobacco products?*

**Paula:** "I feel a sense of accomplishment. I have saved a lot of money which I have used to buy new clothes and to remodel my house. I am a lot more active - joining a gym, and I don't suffer from allergies or headaches anymore. I feel stronger emotionally, and more at peace."

**F.Y.I.:** *What is a message for those trying to stop?*

**Paula:** "I want to be a good role model for other co-workers who are trying to quit. It's a cliché, but don't quit trying to quit. I smoked for over thirty years, but I finally did it, so can you!"

## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



Welcome to New Orleans. Without being here, you can't describe the remaining devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. But there is a faint and distant light at the end of the tunnel - a light that could help awaken a city that still remains very affected by a tragedy three years past.

While in New Orleans, I toured the 9th Ward and I was shocked to see the urban decay that remains. Block after city block, gone or abandoned. But within it, new pockets of life, new homes, new parks, new businesses cling to life in a see-saw battle with blight, crime, and apathy. In the heart of it all sits a refurbished playground. It's there because corrections professionals from around the country chose for it to happen. Dedicated people like Mel Williams from New York and James LeBlanc from Louisiana, and the sheriff of New Orleans Parish and dozens of corrections officers and staff and volunteers came together and built it. The playground is an oasis for children in the heart of despair. It may also be a catalyst for continuing development. Only a few blocks away, new homes are springing up out of the weed-choked lots and vacant boarded houses. The kids in those new homes can walk or ride their bikes to the playground. The community wants to build a neighborhood center right across the street.

So, around this oasis, new development begins to cluster. People who care about their neighborhood begin to rebuild, hopeful that this time, everything will be okay. They stay because, for them, there is no place else to go. For them, this is home, no matter what it has become for others.

On my ride into downtown New Orleans, I talked with the cab driver about what it's like living in the area. He is a retired riverboat captain who ferried all types of cargo up and down the Mississippi for over 30 years. He drives a cab every day now. He sees the effort proceeding slowly and wonders where all the money went. Everything he earns driving cab, he donates to the rebuilding efforts in the city. He chooses where his donations go, and sees the results first-hand. His story, like so many here in a city still trying to find a new identity, is a powerful reminder that there is still much work to be done and there are people willing to do it.



*PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE*

## CAMPAIGN MAKES EVERYONE SMILE

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) created a lot of smiles in New Orleans, Louisiana recently. Our \$12,000 donation went directly into the 9th Ward New Orleans playground that had been rehabilitated this May. New horse shoe pits, a beautiful commercial-grade swing set and uniforms for children who play summer baseball at the park were purchased in part, as a result of the MDOC donation. Overall, the "Make A Smile" campaign raised over \$128,000 and completely refurbished three playground parks for children, building new play areas, ball fields, picnic shelters, and park benches. It was more successful than organizers ever dreamed it would be. Mel Williams, who became the chief organizer for the campaign said, "This is the most valuable thing I have done in my 30 plus years in corrections."

Sampson Park, in one of New Orleans' hardest hit areas, is now a magnet for children and neighbors. It has become an informal meeting place for neighborhood activists who are committed to rebuilding their community. It has also become a catalyst for change, an example of what can be done when people care about each other and work hard to support something that has tangible value.

During the ACA summer convention in New Orleans, a team of little leaguers and their coach, who play their baseball games on the reconditioned field at Sampson park, paid a visit during the "Make A Smile" volunteer recognition reception. Their appearance was the highlight of the evening. As the children entered the room, dressed in their new uniforms, volunteers and contributors alike were emotionally moved. Tears of joy and a sense of satisfaction flowed through the room. And in the end, there were plenty of smiles from everyone who helped make this campaign so successful.

See *MAKE A SMILE*, on page 9





# PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



From **MAKE A SMILE**, page 8

**THESE PICTURES SHOW SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE RESIDENTS OF NEW ORLEANS, AND SOME OF THE FACES THAT CONFRONT THAT CHALLENGE EVERY DAY.**



Boys in their new baseball uniforms watch the "Make A Smile" video for the first time.



Vacant houses stand among the weeds.

Markings on each house indicate a completed search for dead people and their pets.

Below, new construction brings hope to the neighborhood.



Above: Two boys share a bike ride past the park

Left: New York Superintendent and "Make A Smile" campaign organizer Mel Williams (left) with "coach."



Above: Abandoned homes, many with unknown owners, sit across from the park.

At left: The new ball field stands as a silent sentinel opposing the decay.



Left: Hurricane Katrina took a toll on police cars, fire trucks and New Orleans city vehicles. They slowly decay, row after row, in a weed choked city lot not far from newly rehabilitated Sampson Park. The damage is still evident throughout the city.

